

## **20A.20.010 “A” Definitions.**

### **Anadromous Fish.**

Fish that spawn and rear in freshwater and mature in the marine environment.

### **Aquifer Recharge Area.**

Areas where water infiltrates into the subsurface and travels downward through the soil to a ground water aquifer.

## **20A.20.020 “B” Definitions.**

### **Base Flood.**

A flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year, also referred to as the 100-year flood which is based upon built-out conditions. The base flood will be determined through hydrologic modeling, and will assume fully developed land use conditions in tributary basins, such as defined in the Bear Creek Basin Plan. If the City has not modeled the base flood, the applicant shall be responsible for doing so, consistent with the assumptions set forth in this ordinance and the Bear Creek Basin Plan. (Ord. 1693(035))

### **Best Available Science**

Current scientific information used in the process to designate, protect, or restore critical areas, that is derived from a valid scientific process as defined by WAC 365-195-900 through 925.

### **Buffer or Buffer Area.**

A zone surrounding a critical area that protects the critical area from adverse impacts to its integrity, functions, and values, or is an integral part of the resource’s ecosystem. The buffer shall consist of a naturally vegetated and undisturbed, enhanced, or revegetated zone for Streams, Wetlands, and the top of slope for Landslide Hazard Areas. The buffer shall be a vegetated zone (may include grass) and free of permanent structures for the toe of slope for Landslide Hazard Areas. For the purpose of Class I and II streams, **inner buffer** refers to that portion of the buffer closest to the stream whose distance is established in RCDG 20D.140.20-020, *Stream Buffers*. This area is to be treated the same as a buffer as defined above in this definition. The **outer buffer** is that portion of the buffer furthest away from the stream, whose distance is established in RCDG 20D.140.20-020, *Stream Buffers*. Disturbance is permitted in the outer buffer as defined in RCDG 20D.140.20-020(8). Otherwise these areas are to remain as a naturally vegetated zone.(Ord. 1693(045))

## **20A.20.030 “C” Definitions.**

### **Candidate Species.**

Fish and wildlife species that the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife will review for possible listing as endangered, threatened, or sensitive.

**Channel Migration Zone.**

The lateral extent of likely movement along a stream or river during the next one hundred years as determined by evidence of active stream channel movement over the past one hundred years. The time span typically represents the time it takes to grow mature trees that can provide functional large woody debris to streams.

**Clearing – Critical Areas.**

For the purposes of administering Chapter 20D.140 RCDG, *Critical Areas*, “clearing” is the removal of timber, brush, grass, ground cover or other vegetative matter from a site which exposes the earth’s surface of the site or any actions which disturb the existing ground surface. (Ord. 1954; Ord. 1693(055))

**Core Preservation Area.**

These areas form the backbone of habitat areas within the City. They are those areas of the City which are already protected through other regulatory mechanisms. They include Native Growth Protection Easements/Areas, Class I streams and their buffers, Class II through IV streams, and other areas similarly protected. They may also include lands where development rights have been sold and some lands with recorded open space easements, depending on the purpose of the easement. These areas include wetlands and streams and their associated buffers as they become identified at a site specific level.

**Creation of Critical Areas.**

The purposeful and legally authorized or accidental producing or forming of a wetland or stream from an upland (nonwetland or dry) site through artificial means. (Ord. 1693(080))

**Critical Areas.**

Critical areas include any of the following areas or ecosystems: Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas, Wetlands, Frequently Flooded Areas, Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas, and Geologically Hazardous Areas, as defined in RCW 36.70A and RCDG 20D.140, *Critical Areas*.

**20A.20.040 “D” Definitions.**

**20A.20.050 “E” Definitions.**

**Ephemeral Stream**

A stream that forms on a temporary basis following a rainstorm or snowmelt. An ephemeral stream is above the ground water table.

**Erosion Hazard Areas.**

Lands or areas underlain by soils identified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service (SCS) as having “severe” or “very severe” rill and inter-rill erosion hazards. This includes, but is not limited to, the following group of soils when they occur on slopes of 15 percent or greater: Alderwood-Kitsap (AkF), Alderwood gravely sandy

loam (AgD), Kitsap silt loam (KpD), Everett (EvD) and Indianola (InD). (Ord. 1693(090))

**Establishment (Creation).**

The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics present to develop a wetland on an upland or deepwater site, where a wetland did not previously exist. Activities typically involve excavation of upland soils to elevations that will produce a wetland hydroperiod, create hydric soils, and support the growth of hydrophytic plant species.

**20A.20.060 “F” Definitions.**

**FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Association) Floodway.** The channel of the stream and that portion of the adjoining floodplain which is necessary to contain and discharge the FEMA base flood flow without increasing the FEMA base flood elevation more than one foot. (Ord. 1693(180))

**Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas.**

Areas necessary for maintaining species in suitable habitats within their natural geographic distribution so that isolates subpopulations are not created as designated by WAC 365-190-080(5). These areas are further defined in 20D.140.20-010, *Classification and Rating of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas*.

**Flood Fringe.** That portion of the floodplain outside of the floodway which is generally covered by floodwaters during the base flood; it is generally associated with standing water rather than rapidly flowing water.

**Flood Insurance Rate Map.**

The official map on which the Federal Emergency Management Administration has delineated some areas of flood hazard. (Ord. 1693(185))

**Floodplain.**

The total area subject to inundation by the base flood.

**Frequently Flooded Areas.**

Floodplains and other areas subject to flooding and perform important hydrologic functions. Frequently Flooded Areas include floodplains and floodways.

**Functions and Values.**

The beneficial roles served by critical areas including, but not limited to, water quality protection and enhancement, fish and wildlife habitat, food chain support, flood storage, conveyance, and attenuation, groundwater recharge and discharge, erosion control, wave attenuation, protection from hazards, historical and archaeological and aesthetic value protection, and recreation. These beneficial roles are not listed in order or priority.

**20A.20.070 “G” Definitions.**

**Geologically Hazardous Areas.**

Lands or areas characterized by geologic, hydrologic and topographic conditions that render them susceptible to potentially significant or severe risk of landslides, erosion, or seismic activity. (Ord. 1693(195))

**Grading – Critical Areas.**

For the purposes of administering Chapter 20D.140 RCDG, *Critical Areas*, “grading” is any excavating, filling, clearing, leveling, or contouring of the ground surface by human or mechanical means. (Ord. 1954; Ord. 1693(200))

**20A.20.080 “H” Definitions.**

**Headwater**

A stream that is in the uppermost regions of a watershed or catchment area.

**High Impact Land Use.**

Land uses which are likely to have a significant adverse impact on wetlands because of the intensity of the use and levels of human activity. High impact land uses include the following: commercial, urban, industrial, institutional, retail sales, residential (more than one unit per acre), new agriculture (high-intensity processing such as dairies, nurseries, greenhouses, raising and harvesting crops requiring annual tilling, raising and maintaining animals), high-intensity recreation (golf courses, ball fields), and hobby farms. (Ord. 1693(210))

**Hyporheic Zone.**

The saturated zone located beneath and adjacent to streams that contains some portion of surface waters, serves as a filter for nutrients, and maintains water quality.

**20A.20.090 “I” Definitions.**

**In-Kind Mitigation.**

Replacement of critical areas with substitute critical areas whose characteristics closely approximate those destroyed or degraded by a regulated activity. (Ord. 1693(215))

**Intermittent Stream.**

A stream that flows only part of the year after precipitation events and receives some water during that time from groundwater sources.

**20A.20.100 “J” Definitions.**

**20A.20.110 “K” Definitions.**

**20A.20.120 “L” Definitions.**

**Landslide Hazard Areas.**

Lands or areas potentially subject to significant or severe risk of landslides based on a combination of geologic, topographic, and hydrogeologic factors. They include areas susceptible because of any combination of bedrock, soil, slope, slope aspect, structure, hydrology, or other factors. They are areas of the landscape that are at a high risk of failure or that presently exhibit downslope movement of soil and/or rocks and that are separated from the underlying stationary part of the slope by a definite plane of separation. The plane of separation may be thick or thin and may be composed of multiple failure zones depending on local conditions including soil type, slope gradient, and groundwater regime. (Ord. 1693(230))

**Low Impact Land Use.**

Land uses which are not likely to have a significant adverse impact on wetlands because of the intensity of the use and levels of human. Low impact land uses include the following: forestry (cutting trees only), low-intensity open space (such as passive recreation and natural resources preservation), and unpaved trails. (Ord. 1693(235))

**20A.20.130 “M” Definitions.**

**Mitigation – Critical Areas.**

For the purposes of administering Chapter 20D.140 RCDG, *Critical Areas*, “mitigation” includes:

- (1) Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of actions.
- (2) Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.
- (3) Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment.
- (4) Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action.
- (5) Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

While monitoring without additional actions is not considered mitigation for the purposes of these regulations, it may be part of a comprehensive mitigation program. (Ord. 1954; Ord. 1693(240))

**Moderate Impact Land Use.**

Land uses which are likely to have a moderate impact on wetlands because of the intensity of the use and levels of human activity. Moderate impact land uses include the following: residential (one unit per acre or less), moderate-intensity open space (parks), new agriculture (moderate-intensity such as orchards and hay fields), paved trails, and building of logging roads.

**20A.20.140 “N” Definitions.**

**Native Growth Protection Area (NGPA).**

An area where native vegetation is preserved for the purpose of preventing harm to property and the environment, including but not limited to, providing open space,

maintaining wildlife corridors, maintaining slope stability, controlling runoff and erosion, and/or any other purpose designated by approval. (Ord. 1998)

#### **20A.20.150 “O” Definitions.**

##### **Out-of-Kind Mitigation.**

Replacement of critical areas with substitute critical areas whose characteristics do not closely approximate those destroyed or degraded by a regulated activity. (Ord. 1693(250))

#### **20A.20.160 “P” Definitions.**

##### **Priority Habitat/Species, or Priority Wildlife Habitat/Species.**

Habitats and species of local importance and concern in urban areas, as identified by the Washington Department of Wildlife Priority Habitat and Species (PHS) program.

“Priority species” are wildlife species of concern due to their population status and their sensitivity to habitat alteration. “Priority habitats” are areas with one or more of the following attributes: comparatively high wildlife density; high wildlife species richness; significant wildlife breeding habitat; significant wildlife seasonal ranges; significant movement corridors for wildlife; limited availability; or high vulnerability. General types of priority habitat identified in the PHS program potentially found in Redmond include meadows, old-growth/mature forests, riparian areas, snag-rich areas, urban natural open space, and wetlands. (Ord. 1693(265))

#### **20A.20.170 “Q” Definitions.**

##### **Quality Habitat Areas.**

These areas provide significant wildlife value by virtue of their characteristics. These characteristics include several parameters indicative of quality habitat, including size, community diversity, interspersed (spatial patterns), continuity, forest vegetation layers, forest age, and invasive plants.

#### **20A.20.180 “R” Definitions.**

##### **Re-establishment.**

The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural or historic functions to a former critical area. Re-establishment is a type of restoration.

##### **Regulated Activity.**

Activities that have a potential to significantly impact a sensitive area that is subject to the provisions of Chapter 20D.140 RCDG, *Critical Areas*. Regulated activities generally include but are not limited to any filling, dredging, dumping or stockpiling, draining, excavation, flooding, clearing or grading, construction or reconstruction, driving pilings, obstructing, shading, or harvesting. (Ord. 1693(275))

**Rehabilitation.**

The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of repairing natural or historic functions of a degraded critical area. Rehabilitation is a type of restoration.

**Restoration – Critical Areas.**

The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural or historic functions to a former or degraded critical area.

**Riparian Stream Corridor.**

Areas adjacent to stream systems that contain elements of both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems that mutually influence each other. The width of these areas extends to that portion of the terrestrial landscape that directly influences the aquatic ecosystem by providing shade, fine or large woody material, nutrients, organic and inorganic debris, terrestrial insects, or habitat for riparian-associated wildlife. These areas provide a myriad of functions to support a healthy stream system.

**20A.20.190 “S” Definitions.**

**Salmonids.**

Fish of the family Salmonidae, including salmon, trout, and char.

**Seismic Hazard Areas.**

Lands or areas subject to severe risk of damage as a result of earthquake-induced ground shaking, slope failure, settlement, soil liquefaction, or surface faulting. (Ord. 1693(290))

**Site – Critical Areas.**

For the purposes of administering Chapter 20D.140 RCDG, *Critical Areas*, “site” is any parcel or combination of contiguous parcels where the proposed project impacts a sensitive area. (Ord. 1954; Ord. 1693(295))

**Species of Concern.**

Those species listed as State Endangered, State Threatened, State Sensitive, or State Candidate, as well as species listed or proposed for listing by the US Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service.

**Species of Local Importance.**

Species identified by the City of Redmond, including those that possess unusual or unique habitat warranting protection because of qualitative species diversity or habitat system health indicators. It may also include species which are culturally important to the City. Species of Local Importance are designated through the Development Guide Amendment process.

**20A.20.200 “T” Definitions.**

**20A.20.210 “U” Definitions.**

**20A.20.220 “V” Definitions.**

**20A.20.230 “W” Definitions.**

**Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA).**

One of sixty-two watershed in the state of Washington, each composed of the drainage area of a stream or streams, as established in Chapter 173-500 WAC as it existed on January 1, 1997. The City of Redmond is located in WRIA 8.

**Wetland or wetlands.**

Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. Wetlands do not include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland sites, including, but not limited to, irrigation and drainage ditches, grass-lined swales, canals, detention facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, farm ponds, and landscape amenities, or those wetlands created after July 1, 1990, that were unintentionally created as a result of the construction of a road, street, or highway. Wetlands may include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland areas created to mitigate conversion of wetlands.

**20A.20.240 “X” Definitions.**

**20A.20.250 “Y” Definitions.**

**20A.20.260 “Z” Definitions.**

**Zero-Rise Floodway.**

The channel of the stream and that portion of the adjoining floodplain which is necessary to contain and discharge the base flood flow without increasing the base flood elevation. The zero-rise floodway will always include the FEMA floodway.

**THE FOLLOWING EXISTING DEFINITIONS IN 20A ARE REPEALED AS PART OF THIS UPDATE:**

**Critical Erosion Hazard Area  
Critical Geologic Hazard Area  
Critical Habitat, or Critical Wildlife Habitat  
Critical Landslide Hazard Areas  
Critical Seismic Hazard Areas  
Flood Hazard Areas  
Wetlands  
Wildlife Habitat**



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